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An ACT to provide for a Copper Coinage.

Section 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Director of the mint, with the approbation of the President of the United States, be authorized to contract for and purchase a quantity of copper, not exceeding 150 tons, and that the said director, as soon as the needful preparations shall be made, cause the copper, by him purchased, to be coined at the mint into cents and half cents, pursuant to "The act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States;" and that the said cents and half cents, as they shall be coined, be paid into the treasury of the United States, thence to issue into circulation.

SECT. 2. And be it further enacted, That after the expiration of six calendar months from the time when there shall have been paid into the treasury by the said director, in cents and half cents, a sum not less than 50,000 dollars, which time shall forthwith be announced by the treasurer in, at least, two Gazettes or newspapers, published at the seat of the government of the United States, for the time being, no copper coins or pieces whatsoever, except the said cents and half cents, shall pass current as money, or shall be paid, or offered to be paid or received in payment for any debt, demand, claim, matter or thing whatsoever; and all copper coins or pieces, except the said cents and half cents, which shall be paid or offered to be paid or received in payment, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, shall be forfeited, and every person by whom any of them shall have been so paid, or offered to be paid, or received in payment, shall also forfeit the sum of ten dollars, and the said forfeiture and penalty shall and may be recovered, with costs of suit, for the benefit of any person or persons by whom information of the incurring thereof, shall have been given.

[Approved, May 8th, 1792.]

A PROMPTER. RAGS! RAGS!

HOW the best things grow out of the worst!—Even the bible is made out of rags! And yet people will not save their rags! Authors, Printers, Arts, Sciences, and records, all depend on rags for support, and yet rags are thrown away. Great people, that is people really great, save rags. Why? because the saving rags is a very little thing, yet it is a little thing that has great effects. Poor people who are really poor, that is, people who are not poor and proud, save rags. Why? because every little helps. A few pounds of rags bring a few pence, and pence feed hungry children. But middling people, who are above want and below affluence, will not save rags. Then let them put the business into the hands of little folks; children and maids. Tell Moll and Betty to keep a rag bag in a handy place—give them all the pence that their rags will produce. Their minds are not above the business—they will think of it—they will buy a cap or a hat with a year's collection of rags; and the rags will make a bible or a law book—There is a bible and a cap clear gain! Twenty thousand families in Connecticut will save twenty thousand bibles and caps! A great saving this for one year and one State.

P.S. Tell Moll and Betty, that you paper-makers do not mean to get away their dish-cloths—after their rags are become unfit for dish-cloths and house cloths, they are just as good for paper-makers as ever.

[Received by Capt. CROWNFIELD, from the Cape of Good Hope.]

To the EDITOR of the SALEM GAZETTE.
S I R,

By inserting the following dialogue in your Gazette, and forwarding a copy of it to New York and Philadelphia, you will much oblige your humble servant.

WALTER SIMS.

N. B. Before the dialogue it will be necessary to acquaint you with the reason of it.

I Arrived with the ship Fame, from Philadelphia, in Table Bay, on the coast of Africa, on Thursday, the 15th of December, 1791, on purpose to fill up my water and refresh my crew, having had a long passage of 3 months and 21 days, from the Pilot—I found in the Bay, his

Britannic Majesty's ship Providence, of 20 guns, WILLIAM BLITH, commander; a small brig, also under his direction; both bound to Ootehite, after the bread fruit tree—likewise several other ships of different nations, but none from America, but myself. The day after my arrival in the Bay, I went on shore; one of my seamen getting intoxicated, and making use of very abusive and threatening language to me, I threatened him with punishment (when he went on board.) Dreading the chastisement which he so justly deserved, he made application to Capt. BLITH, for his protection—declaring himself a subject of Great Britain, notwithstanding he swore before JOHN BARCLAY, Esq. Mayor in the city of Philadelphia, that he was a subject of the U. States. I took the precaution before I sailed from Philadelphia, to have most of my men sworn, knowing, that if I fell in with a King's ship, without I had proof of my crew being subjects of the United States, they would at pleasure deprive me of them, but have found it to answer no purpose at this time. In consequence of my man being sent on board the Providence, I waited on Capt. BLITH, to demand him back, as you will see by the following dialogue, which took place at Capt. BLITH's lodgings.

Sims. Sir, I have taken the liberty of calling on you, respecting one of my seamen, who has left me and is now on board your ship.

Blith. Sir, he is a British subject, and it is my duty to give him protection.

Sims. How do you know that he is a British subject?

Blith. Because he told me so.

Sims. I can produce his affidavit to the contrary.

Blith. What is that to the purpose, if he says he is a British subject?

Sims. That it is plain he is a subject of the United States, and that he has taken the oath of allegiance, which I can produce on the back of the articles of agreement between me and my crew.

Blith. Sir, I know nothing about it; he has applied to me for protection, and my duty obliges me to give it to him.

Sims. Sir, you may as well say, that all the seamen belonging to the United States, if they tell you so, are subjects of Great Britain, and that you will distress all ships as you have done mine.

Blith. Certainly I would! Why do they not register the men, that we may know them?

Sims. Sir, I have told you that I can produce his affidavit—Will that not satisfy you of his being an American?

Blith. I do not know till I see it.

Sims. As soon as the weather will permit, I will go on board and bring it you.

Blith. Then if you have to go off, you may as well go on board to my officer, which will answer the same as troubling me with it; and if he is of opinion that this man is not a British subject, he will let him go.

Sims. Sir, I think the trouble is mine, and I suppose your officer would not let him go, without an order from you, whatever he thought of it. If you will give me an order from your officer to deliver him, I will then go after him; but sir, you can decide the business now, if you please, without referring to your officer.

Blith. I will give you a letter to Lieut. BOND.—[Writes.]

Sims. Sir, have you in the letter ordered your Lieutenant to deliver the man when I produce his affidavit?

Blith. No sir, I will read it to you.

[The letter to his Lieutenant was as follows, "That if it appeared to the Lieutenant, that the seaman that entered from the American ship was not born in Great Britain, and was not a subject of his Majesty's, to let him go; but if any doubt remained, to keep him." N.B. The above is as near the words in the letter as I can remember.]

Sims. Sir, you may just as well send an order for him to be kept on board; for if your Lieutenant (like yourself) will take the fellow's word, when his oath is to be produced, there will be an end of the business; but you may with the same propriety take every man in my ship, if they tell you they are not Americans.

Blith. I will see the oath first; but then if he wishes to go, I must take him; I have printed instructions so to do.

Sims. I shall go on board when the weather comes more moderate, and will produce the affidavit, but can plainly see, that right is not intended to take place in this

business, so far, I wish you good morning. [Sunday, Dec. 18, 1791.—I went on board this morning to the commanding officer (who was Lieutenant BOND) and informed him of my business, and produced the seamen's articles, as also their affidavits: at first sight of them, he declared that they had no right to detain the man; that he had certainly taken the oath, but his orders from Capt. Blith were that if it appeared that he was born in his Majesty's dominions he was to detain him, and as he (the fellow) appeared to him, to be a Scotchman, he could not with propriety let him go without an order: it was just what I expected.]

Sims. But will you oblige me by letting the fellow go on shore to Capt. Blith?

Lieut. Yes sir, by all means, I will send him after breakfast.

Sims. Then sir I wish you good morning.

[N.B. The Lieutenant behaved much like a Gentleman, but he was only Lieutenant.]

The second meeting with Capt. Blith after I returned from the Ship Providence, at 11 o'clock, Capt. Blith's own Lodgings—

Sims. Sir I have been on board your ship and have brought the articles that my crew are under, and their affidavits, which you will please to look at.

Blith. Sir the man has been with me, and is now on shore; he declares he is a British subject, and I must protect him.

Sims. Sir you have not looked at his affidavit, read it, and it will convince you to the contrary.

Blith. [Reads.] I see he has taken an oath, but what is that? It was no doubt to answer his purpose (at that time); but my orders are, and besides I am in honor bound, to take him if he says he is a British subject.

Sims. Then sir you will take his word, and his oath is not regarded by you.

Blith. His oath is nothing; he is ready to swear (now) that he is a British subject, which is enough. I have not time to talk about it, I have business to attend to.—It is my duty to keep him.

Sims. I always understood that Commanders of King's ships were ministers of justice and justices of the peace—are they not, Sir?

Blith. Most certainly they are.

Sims. Would you as a justice of the peace give that scoundrel an oath, after he has taken one to the United States, which I have just shewn you?

Blith. Why not, in a case of this kind?

Sims. I believe there is not a justice of the peace in England would do it; if they did, it would be they that were guilty of perjury, and not the man; and honor would be quite thrown aside in that case.

Blith. Sir, the man will not go with you; if he will say he will go with you, I do not want him.

Sims. Then sir why is your Lieutenant by him? If you will not protect him I will soon make him go; but do you want me to take him by force?

Blith. There is no occasion for force; if he will only say he will go with you, I do not want to keep him.

Sims. He is afraid to go with me: I have threatened him with punishment for his bad behaviour; and sir I thought you would have been the last to encourage or protect seamen from punishment that deserved it; you suffered enough last voyage by the ill treatment of unruly seamen.

Blith. Sir I have nothing more to say; I am only doing my duty.

Sims. Sir it is a stretch of power, and nothing but your superior force should make me submit to your keeping him; but be assured, that if I want hands, and find an English ship in the road, I will make free and take them; I have as much right to do that, as you have to take men from me.

Blith. Yes! if they are American subjects, and you was a man of war.

Sims. Sir we have no men of war; but it is no reason because my ship is not a man of war, that I am to be distressed by you who are one.—I have proved to you that the man you have taken from me is an American subject, by producing his affidavit; and you have no proof of his being a British subject but his own word. Sir, it is a stretch of power which should not be suffered, if your ship and crew were not of greater force than mine.

Blith. Then it would be, the hardest send off: you may be thankful you have not his wages to pay.

Sims. Not by any means, sir: I will pay him no wages until he completes his voyage.

Blith. But there is a way to make you pay him.

Sims. I do not think so, sir; if there is,

it must be by force; and that I will not so easily give up as I have the man; besides sir, the fellow is indebted to me, which I expect you will pay; I shall present you with his account.

Blith. I have nothing to do with his debts.

Sims. No sir, nor with himself; but since it must be so, when you have sailed, I shall find myself superior in force to any English Ship here, and you may depend I will not go to sea without making up my complement of men, which will be owing to your arbitrary proceedings with me, with whom you have no more to do than I have with them. Good morning sir.

N. B. At 2 P. M. I received a message from my Ship, that the Officer of the man of war had been on board and threatened that if the man's wages were not paid, they would cut away the masts by the board. Being Sunday, I took no notice of it.

Monday, Dec. 19, 1791. I sent the following Letter to Capt. WILLIAM BLITH; delivered by Mr. WILLIAM SPENCE, a passenger on board of my ship.

LETTER I.

S I R,

I am under the necessity of again troubling you, to inform you that my ship and cargo is to the amount of 15,000l. sterling, and that you have not only distressed me by taking one of my seamen from me, but your Officer has been on board of my ship and threatened my Officer with cutting away the rigging and masts of the ship, if payment of the man's wages (whom you have deprived me of) is not made. When the seamen who have signed the articles to perform the voyage with me, have completed it, their wages will be paid them, and not until then, unless by such means as your officer has threatened. For my own security, I shall enter a protest, and leave the remaining part of the business to be attended to by the underwriters. The seaman you have taken from me is indebted to the ship: his account I send you. I am, Sir, your humble Servant, W. SIMS.

Monday morning Dec. 19, 1791.
To Capt. Wm. Blith of his Majesty's ship Providence.

After Mr. Spence delivered the Letter he had the following conversation with Capt. BLITH.

Blith. Are you an Officer on board the ship?

Spence. No sir, I am a passenger.

Blith. Look here (handing SPENCE the letter) what this man is troubling me about. Why do they not make laws in America to protect their seamen? This man is a British subject.

Spence. I believe not sir, he is proved to be an American.

Blith. Well he may protest and be damn'd (alluding to the contents in the foregoing letter) damn his letter.

Spence. Will you please to write Capt. SIMS a few lines, to let him know what you intend to do?

Blith. No! Damn his letter; I have no time to write—I have other business to attend to.

Spence. Capt. SIMS has also other business to attend to, besides receiving a verbal message from me, and if you do not write an answer, I shall carry him none.

N. B. This information I had from Mr. SPENCE, and after waiting half an hour (to see whether or not he would send an answer) it not coming, I wrote him the following, viz.

LETTER II.

S I R,—The contempt with which you treated the letter I sent you this morning, and the unmeaning words, "Protest and be damn'd," being so unlike the language of the representative of his Britannic Majesty, has induced me again to call your attention from the hurry of business* for a moment, to inform you that the laws of the United States of America are not now to be made (as you suppose) but are already and well made, and the executors of them put them in force with justice. The subjects of the said States have always been treated as well in Great Britain as the subjects of any other nation, and those of G. Britain meet with as much justice and politeness in America as they do in any other part of the globe. It is needless to say, that we are now neither in G. Britain or America, but in time we may chance to be in both, where I for my part will lay before a discerning public the civility I have received from the representative of his Britannic Majesty on the coast of Africa, where justice gave way to force. Wishing you a more successful voyage than your last, I am, Sir, Your humble servant.

Monday, Dec. 19.

W. SIMS.

* Capt. Blith pretended great hurry of business was the reason he did not answer my first letter.